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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BAKER HUGHES INCORPORATED [US/US]; 3900 Essex Lane, Houston, TX 77027 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): JONES, Gregory, M. [GB/GB]; 28 Bushbys Lane, Formby, Merseyside L37 2DZ (GB). POVEY, Malcolm, J., W. [GB/GB]; Greystones Farm, Bradshaw Lane, Huddersfield HD7 5UZ (GB). CAMPBELL, John [GB/GB]; 36 Cromptons Lane, Liverpool L18 3EX (GB).

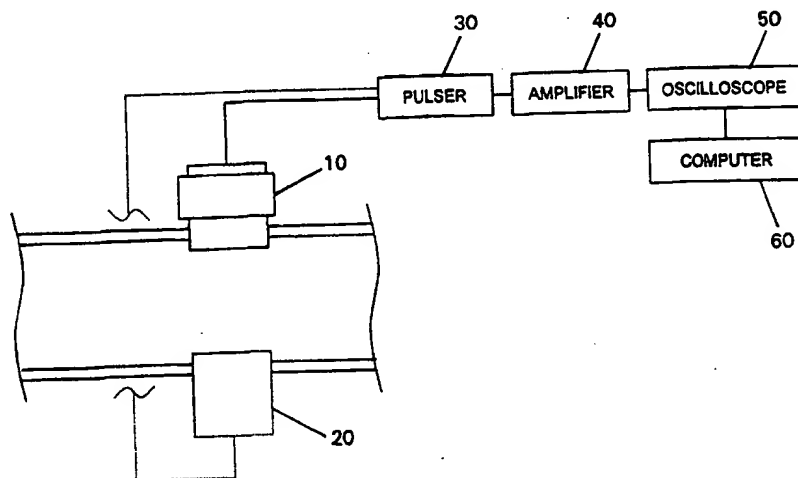
(74) Agents: DUNLAP, Charles, E. et al.; Howell & Haferkamp, L.C., Suite 1400, 7733 Forsyth Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63105 (US).

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(54) Title: MEASUREMENT AND CONTROL OF ASPHALTENE AGGLOMERATION IN HYDROCARBON LIQUIDS



(57) Abstract

A method is provided for measuring the agglomerative state of asphaltenes in oil by applying an acoustic signal to the oil, detecting the scattered acoustic energy and using this detected signal to determine the relative particle size distribution of the asphaltene particles in the oil and/or their state of agglomeration. A method for controlling the agglomerative state of the asphaltenes which is based on the acoustic measurement technique is also provided.